

SENATE BILL 2446
By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3,
Chapter 1; Title 3, Chapter 16 and Title 3, Chapter
2, relative to recording meetings and votes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 3-1-1__.

(a) In addition to any other legislative meetings, hearings, sessions, or other events that are currently or may in the future be recorded, hearings held by a subcommittee of a standing committee of the general assembly shall be recorded using audio recording technology. Such recordings shall be stored, maintained, and made accessible to the public by the Tennessee state library and archives. The recording of hearings held by a subcommittee of a standing committee shall be implemented beginning with the first session of the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly.

(b) This section shall in no way be construed as prohibiting the use of other methods of recording in addition to audio recording technologies.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 16, is amended by adding the following language as a new section to be designated as follows:

Section 3-16-105.

(a) The office of legislative information systems for the general assembly shall develop a computer program which will enable all roll-call votes taken on the final action of a bill or resolution by a subcommittee or committee of the

general assembly or a roll-call vote of the senate or the house of representatives of the general assembly to be posted in a timely fashion on the Internet through the web site maintained by the general assembly. The votes shall be posted in such a manner to record the “Aye” and “Nay” votes by name cast on the final action on the question for the bill or resolution. In developing the program, the director of such office shall consult with the speakers of the house and the senate to determine the most efficient manner to accomplish such posting. The posting of such votes shall be implemented beginning with the first session of the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 3-2-1__.

(a) All votes constituting final action on a bill or resolution by a subcommittee or ad hoc, special or standing committee of the general assembly shall be by roll-call vote. The chair’s designee of such committee or subcommittee shall call the roll and record the member’s vote, orally announcing the results of such votes cast on the question.

(b) Beginning with the first session of the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly all roll-call votes taken on the final action of a bill or resolution by a subcommittee or committee of the general assembly or a roll-call vote of the senate or the house of representatives of the general assembly shall be posted in a timely fashion on the Internet through the web site maintained by the general assembly pursuant to § 3-16-105. Such action shall be posted within three (3) days of the vote taken on the bill or resolution.

SECTION 4. The 104th general assembly must recognize that the appellate courts of Tennessee have unequivocally ruled that Article II, Section 12 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee prevents this or any other general assembly from statutorily binding a future general assembly on rules of proceedings. Therefore, this general assembly must truthfully acknowledge that the provisions of this section can be legally binding only for the duration of the 104th general assembly. However, each future general assembly is strongly encouraged and vigorously urged to adopt rules implementing the provisions of this section.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.